

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 9. Please also amend claim 1, and add new claims 10-16, as shown in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

1. (currently amended) A numerical expression retrieving device for completing and retrieving a numerical expression, comprising:

input means for inputting a record to be retrieved, the record containing an incomplete numerical expression that includes a prefix for a basic unit of measurement without the basic unit of measurement itself;

syntactic parsing means for parsing a syntactic structure of the inputted record;

an attribute dictionary which stores attribute information and unit system information therein, the attribute information including attribute names indicative of attributes pertaining to features that can be numerically measured or quantified, attribute contents indicative of meanings of the attributes, and basic units of measurement to supplement omitted representations, the unit system information including prefixes to decide omissions, and multiples indicative of meanings of the prefixes;

a co-occurrence word dictionary which stores therein information including attribute names indicative of attributes, and co-occurrence words to decide the attribute names;

omission completion means for completing the incomplete numerical expression by adding a basic unit of measurement to [[a]] the prefix in the inputted record, by referring to the parsed syntactic structure and said attribute dictionary and by further referring to said co-occurrence word dictionary;

extraction means for extracting a word with the basic unit of measurement added to the prefix in the inputted record, as a retrieval keyword for the record after completion of the incomplete numerical expression by the omission completion means;

a document database which stores document data therein; and

document storage and retrieval means for storing the record with the incomplete numerical expression completed, the inputted record, and the extracted retrieval keyword in the document database,

wherein said omission completion means searches the inputted record for a numerical expression shortened to a prefix only, from within the inputted record by referring to the parsed syntactic structure and said co-occurrence word dictionary, determines a co-occurrence word of one of the prefixes included in the unit system information on the basis of the parsed syntactic structure for the incomplete numerical expression, determines an attribute name of said one of the prefixes by referring to said co-occurrence word dictionary on the basis of the determined co-occurrence word, and adds the basic unit of measurement to the prefix in the inputted record by referring to said attribute dictionary on the basis of the determined attribute name.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

3. (previously presented) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, further comprising:

output means;

wherein said omission completion means decides whether or not the incomplete numerical expression in the inputted record is a numerical expression shortened to a prefix only, by referring to the parsed syntactic structure and said co-occurrence word dictionary, and when the incomplete numerical expression in the inputted record is indeed shortened to a prefix only, said omission completion means notifies a user to that effect by said output means and prompts the user to re-input a numerical expression.

4. (previously presented) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, further comprising:

output means;

wherein said omission completion means decides whether or not the incomplete numerical expression in the inputted record is a numerical expression shortened to a prefix only, by referring to the parsed syntactic structure and said co-occurrence word dictionary, and when the incomplete numerical expression in the inputted record is indeed shortened to a prefix only, said omission completion means presents basic units of measurement and attribute information by said output means and prompts a user to select one of the basic units of measurement, and completes the incomplete numerical expression with a basic unit of measurement selected by the user.

5. (previously presented) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 4, wherein if a basic unit of measurement for completing the incomplete numerical expression has not been selected, said omission completion means completes the shortened numerical expression with a plurality basic units of measurement.

6. (previously presented) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 3, wherein said document storage and retrieval means retrieves a record whose retrieval keyword agrees with the incomplete numerical expression in the inputted record, from said document database, and outputs the retrieved record as a retrieved result by said output means.

7. (previously presented) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, wherein the record comprises a document.

8. (previously presented) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, wherein the record comprises a numerical expression.

Claim 9 (canceled).

10. (new) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, wherein the attributes include dimensions, the attribute names include names of the dimensions, the basic units of measurement are units for measuring the dimensions, and the co-occurrence words include expressions associated with the dimensions.

11. (new) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 10, wherein the dimensions include length and the basic units of measurement include the meter.

12. (new) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, wherein the attributes include length and weight, and the basic units of measurement include a basic unit of length and a basic unit of weight.

13. (new) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 13, wherein the basic unit of length is the meter.

14. (new) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 13, wherein the basic units of length and weight are respectively the meter and the gram.

15. (new) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, wherein the record is a final record, and the incomplete numerical expression appears in the final record.

16. (new) The numerical expression retrieving device according to claim 1, wherein the incomplete numerical expression appears in the record in a sentence that has been finalized.